

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JIDDA 07414 061014Z

15

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 023785

O 060915Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2813

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 7414

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, ET, US

SUBJECT: KAGNEW FOUR

REF: A) STATE 262854; B) JIDDA 7399

1. WE MET WITH DIRECTOR AFRICAN AND ASIAN AFFAIRS AHMED SIRAJ LATE AFTERNOON NOVEMBER 5 PRIOR RECEIPT OF REF A. WE ASKED SIRAJ HOW THE FOOD AND MEDICINE PARCEL WOULD BE PASSED TO ERITREAN REPS IN JIDDA. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD ARRANGE A MEETING AT WHICH HE ALSO WOULD BE PRESENT AND AT WHICH TIME A DIRECT TRANSFER WOULD BE MADE. WE TENTATIVELY AGREED. WE AGREE HOWEVER, WITH THE DEPT'S LOGIC IN REF A FOR NOT RPT NOT DOING IT THIS WAY AND SEE NO RPT NO PROBLEM IN CHANGING THE PROCEDURE. WE WILL TELL SIRAJ THAT WE DO NOT THINK IT APPROPRIATE FOR THE SAG-ASSISTED TRANSFER OF HUMANITARIAN AID TO BE SO DIRECTLY RELATED TO ANY MEETING WITH PLF REPRESENTATIVES. WE WILL SUGGEST THAT THE PARCEL TRANSFER TAKE PLACE AS NOW AGREED ON SATURDAY SEPT 8 AND THAT ANY MEETING DESIRED BY THE PLF TAKE PLACE SUBSEQUENTLY. WE CANNOT JUDGE WHETHER IT EMANATES FROM THE PLF OR THE SAG BUT WE DETECT SOME EAGERNESS FOR AN EARLY MEETING SO EXPECT THAT IT WILL TAKE PLACE FAIRLY SOON AFTER THE TRANSFER.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JIDDA 07414 061014Z

2. WE DID NOT BROACH THE SUBJECT OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ERITREAN REFUGEES IN THE SUDAN BUT SIRAJ RAISED THE SUBJECT. HE REPEATED THAT IT WAS HIS PERSONAL SUGGESTION BUT SAID THAT SUCH A HUMANITARIAN GESTURE BY THE USG MIGHT HAVE A BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON THE ATTITUDE OF ERITREANS VIS-A-VIS THE HOSTAGES. WE REPLIED ON A COMPLETELY PERSONAL BASIS THAT REGARDLESS OF THE HUMANITARIAN JUSTIFICATION FOR ASSISTANCE THE FACT THAT THE ERITREANS ARE HOLDING US HOSTAGES MAKES SUCH AID MOST UNLIKELY AT THE PRESENT TIME AND IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT EVEN AFTER THE HOSTAGES HAD BEEN RELEASED LEST THE IMPRESSION BE GIVEN THAT IT WAS OFFERED AS A FORM OF RANSOM. SIRAJ DID NOT PURSUE THE SUBJECT. WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT SIRAJ, PERHAPS ON HIS OWN, WAS TRYING TO FIND SOMETHING THAT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO OFFER TO THE ERITREANS IN CONNECTION WITH THE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES WHICH WOULD NOT BE IN THE NATURE OF RANSOM. HE HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN MADE FULLY AWARE OF OUR POSITION ON PAYING RANSOM OR ACCEDING TO POLITICAL DEMANDS.

3. WE WERE UNSUCCESSFUL IN DETERMINING THE IDENTITY OF SIRAJ'S ERITREAN INTERLOCATORS. WE ASKED SPECIFICALLY IF THEY WERE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PLF. SIRAJ RESPONDED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BUT THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT SINCE RECENT MERGER TALKS THERE IS NO LONGER AS FAR AS THE SAG IS CONCERNED ANY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS, ELF AND PLF. IN ANY CASE THE SAG'S INTERLOCATORS SEEM TO BE SPEAKING WITH A GREAT DEAL OF CONFIDENCE ABOUT THEIR ABILITY TO GET THE PARCEL OF FOOD AND MEDICINES TO HARRELL AND CAMPBELL. SIRAJ SAID THEY HAD "GUARANTEED" THAT IT WOULD ARRIVE.

4. AS FOR THE ROUTE THE PARCEL WOULD TAKE, SIRAJ SAID THAT IT, ALONG WITH ANY PARCEL FOR BOWIDOWICZ AND STRICKLAND, WOULD BE PUT ON THE AIRCRAFT CHARTERED TO DELIVER SAUDI RELIEF SUPPLIES NEXT WEEK TO ERITREAN REFUGEES IN THE SUDAN AND WOULD THEN BE BROKEN DOWN AND PACKED TO WHERE THE HOSTAGES ARE BEING HELD.

5. SIRAJ HAD NO DETAILS BUT SAID HE HAD BEEN ASSURED THAT THE HEALTH OF ALL THE KAGNEW FOUR IS GOOD, INCLUDING THAT OF CAMPBELL AND HARRELL.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 JIDDA 07414 061014Z

6. COMMENT: IT IS ONLY AN IMPRESSION -- SIRAJ COULD NOT BE PINNED DOWN ON DETAILS -- BUT THE PEOPLE THE SAUDIS ARE DEALING WITH MAY NOT BE THOSE ACTUALLY HOLDING CAMPBELL AND HARRELL.
AKINS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEDICAL CARE, PRISONERS RELEASE, LIBERATION FRONTS, RELIEF (ASSISTANCE)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975JIDDA07414
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750385-0840
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751169/aaaacjki.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 262854, 75 JIDDA 7399
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KAGNEW FOUR
TAGS: PFOR, SA, ET, US, (SIRAJ, AHMED), (HARRELL), (CAMPBELL), (BOWIDOWICZ), (STRICKLAND)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006